

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 2917

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By Ms. Balser of Newton, petition of Ruth B. Balser and others relative to authorizing the Department of Elder Affairs to establish a program of public education concerning long term care. Elder Affairs.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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### PETITION OF:

Ruth B. Balser	Douglas W. Petersen
Patricia D. Jehlen	John D. Keenan
Robert O'Leary	Frank I. Smizik
Barbara A. L'Italien	John W. Scibak
Joyce A. Spiliotis	Alice K. Wolf
Michael E. Festa	Kathleen M. Teahan
Deborah D. Blumer	Thomas J. O'Brien
Bruce E. Tarr	

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In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

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AN ACT RELATIVE TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION ABOUT  
LONG TERM CARE.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 The department of elder affairs shall develop a program of  
2 public education designed to inform elders of their options for  
3 long-term health care coverage. Said program shall include infor-  
4 mation about the following topics: Medicare plans, benefits and  
5 coverage; MassHealth institutional care and the alternatives for  
6 receipt of community-based care; income and asset criteria for  
7 MassHealth long-term care, including information about home  
8 ownership, estate recovery and transfer of assets; and long-term  
9 care insurance policies including limits on coverage, suitability  
10 standards and protection of assets from MassHealth estate  
11 recovery.

12 In developing its program the department shall consult with the  
13 following agencies and groups: the division of insurance; the divi-  
14 sion of medical assistance; the Massachusetts Councils on Aging;  
15 AARP; the Massachusetts Association of Older Americans; the  
16 National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys Massachusetts  
17 Chapter; and the Medicare Advocacy Project. The division shall  
18 submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and  
19 means not later than February 1, 2006 on the progress of the pro-  
20 gram and details of its implementation.